



What is a foreign adoption?

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Certifying Foreign Adoption

A GUIDE TO CERTIFYING FOREIGN ADOPTION IN THE FAMILY COURT

FAMILY COURT OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE

<http://courts.state.de.us/family>

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Why do I need to certify the validity of my foreign adoption decree?

The certification of a foreign adoption decree is the way to register an international adoption. If your child's adoption was finalized in another state, you may also request that the Court certify the validity of the foreign adoption, however, the State of Delaware will give full faith and credit to the foreign adoption regardless of registration.

How do I certify the validity of a foreign adoption decree?

To certify the validity of a foreign adoption decree, you must file a petition and affidavit with the Court. To do so, complete Family Court form #111. When submitting this form to the Court, you must also submit a copy of the foreign adoption decree. The Court will then review the paperwork and, if all the statutory requirements have been met, will issue an Order Certifying the Validity of the Foreign Adoption Decree.

What are the requirements for a foreign adoption decree to be certified?

- 1) The decree must have been issued in accordance with the laws of the country or state in which it was issued.
- 2) The child was not brought into Delaware until the adoption was finalized

What happens after the Court certifies the validity of the foreign adoption decree?

A final decree of adoption in the State of Delaware will be issued indicating that the child is the legal child of the parents and a birth certificate shall be issued from the State of Delaware.